



FOCUS

*Fleet North
Election Special*

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Local Liberal Democrats have again chosen

Mariken van Dolen

as their candidate for Fleet North on May 5th

Mariken has lived in Fleet for seven years, the last four on Elvetham Heath. She has two grown-up sons of her own and two stepsons who attend local schools.

Mariken grew up and studied in the Netherlands with degrees in both teaching and medical sciences. She has worked in various sectors including nursing, training and IT and she will soon qualify as a personal development coach.

One of her passions is cookery and she recently appeared on BBC television in the Hairy Bikers programme as one of the Cooking Mums. Singing is her other passion and she sings with Bracknell Choral Society. She takes a keen interest in local matters and has been a volunteer for various charities and an after-school care organisation.



FIVE REASONS TO VOTE FOR MARIKEN - if elected, she would lobby for:

- **Secure school places within Fleet for all Fleet North children.**
- **Safe and healthy community facilities for everyone, especially for children and the elderly.**
- **Better and safer cycling facilities to stimulate people to cycle rather than using the car.**
- **Improved accessibility and parking at Fleet Station.**
- **A value-for-money Hart Council, ensuring good quality services are maintained.**

Value for money for your Council Tax?

Tory-controlled Hart DC, along with Hampshire CC, have frozen council tax this year - but only because central government gave a special grant of 2.5% to councils which had no increase. Of course, this comes from the other taxes you pay!

Even so, car parking costs are about to increase again in Fleet, with higher overnight charges in Gurkha Square and the introduction of Sunday charges. Why penalise Fleet residents and traders even more?

Hart's bin collection service is to be outsourced from this autumn. It took a long time for the service to settle down after the previous changes. Hart's Tory councillors promise the same level of service - let us hope the contractors can deliver without more disruption.

Litter picking is now paid for by town and parish councils, under a Hart DC contract. Hart budget cuts have led to the cutting of a litter crew. So we will get a poorer service unless we pay more money!

Hart Voluntary Action co-ordinates many local volunteer groups. Their work in the community is needed even more with cuts by Hampshire CC to social services and other bodies. Despite this, Hart Tories have cut the grant to HVA. Hart Liberal Democrats tried to reinstate the full grant at the council budget meeting but were outvoted. So much for David Cameron's "Big Society"!

Vote for Mariken van Dolen on 5th May

Crazy layout at Fleet Station



Mariken says "Recent changes to vehicle access at the station have not been an improvement. At busy times, two lanes of cars, buses and taxis have to merge prior to exit and also cross the incoming traffic, causing long delays and queues at

the roundabout outside the station yard. Network Rail must reconsider this dangerous layout."



Tory axe falls on services for the young

Sure Start Children's Centres:

Many young families appreciate the work done by Fleet Fireflies, the children's centre in Fleet library. Turners Wood children's centre has just opened on Elvetham Heath to provide similar facilities.

Yet Hampshire Tories have cut their Children Centre budget from £17m to £11m, despite Government money to keep these centres running. Management and staffing are to be outsourced. Many are worried about what this will mean with less money available.

Youth Services:

Liberal Democrats back provision of youth services which keep young people occupied with positive activity, reducing anti-social behaviour. We are very worried that the Tory County Council is AXING youth services across the county as part of its ill thought out budget cuts.

Why pick on services for the young, when at the same time they are putting £millions into County reserves and last year spent over £700,000 on venue hire despite having adequate facilities in their Winchester HQ, recently refurbished at a cost of £40m?
DO THEY CARE!

School places for all Fleet North children

Parents have been worried for several years at a shortage of places in primary & secondary schools in Fleet. Elvetham Heath Primary School was expanded, but is still not big enough for all children living on the Heath, let alone those from Ancells Farm. An extra reception class is to be added to both Tavistock and Fleet Infant schools this coming September. In future years more temporary classrooms will be needed. As for secondary places, we are told there are plans to expand Calthorpe Park School, but no timetable has been confirmed.

Hampshire CC seem unconcerned about the impact of travelling further to school. Fewer parents will be able to walk their children to school, leading to greater traffic congestion, making it less safe for cyclists and increasing pollution at a time when we are trying to be more environmentally responsible.



Fleet Town Access Plan

This scheme is for improved cycle and pedestrian routes to schools, shops and the station. Some are off-street and some on-street. This is to encourage lower car usage for local journeys and to improve road safety. It is planned to implement this in stages as funding becomes available.

It is important that local residents are fully consulted at each stage. You should receive advance notice of proposals in your area. Please take the time to study and respond, so that residents views are taken in to account.

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